

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Give a 5-minute review of Peppy's sermon

Facilitator:

Please don't feel you have to cover every question. They become increasingly deeper and more thoughtful toward the end. It may help to highlight questions you want to be sure to cover, depending on the dynamics of your group and the time available. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

Miscellaneous: If you were able to make it out to the OCS Silent Auction, thank you! Our school really felt the support of our church family! We hope that your family was blessed with a fun time together that evening!

Check out our new Crossroads Family Ministries facebook page when you get a chance! This page shares resources and information that equip parents to raise their children in a biblical manner. Look for daily prayer challenges, and share verses and testimonies that have inspired your family!

CONNECT Group study questions for November 20, 2016

Title: He is Jealous for Me

Read John 15:9-16:11 *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.*

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works

that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

For the Children

Question: Have you ever had someone dislike you for seemingly no good reason?

Have you ever had someone give you a hard way to go for doing the right thing? Share about it.

How does knowing God's love and your parents' love help you when you face classmates or neighbors who mistreat you or dislike you for doing the right thing?

Especially for the teens

What makes the Christian different from those who don't know Christ, specifically when it comes to sin, righteousness, and judgement?

Why might that make the world hate us? **Facilitator:** Point out that Christians are not "better," and are not victims when others mistreat us. Rather we are much loved! The believer chooses to acknowledge sin, while

the non-believer denies it. The Christian receives the righteousness of Jesus through faith, while the non-believer hates what is right or tries to be “good enough.” The Christian escapes eternal judgement by accepting the death of Christ on our behalf, while the non-believer is condemned. Use these contrasts to help kids and teens understand WHY the world is hostile toward Christians. Note: Our Sunday School kids have been learning about God the Pursuer as He demonstrated His mercy through Hosea and Jonah. Both of these prophets were given the job of showing God’s mercy to a hostile people. If time and opportunity permits, you may bring up these examples!

For the Group

Question: Pastor Peppy began with two principles from *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu: 1.) Know yourself; 2.) Know your enemy.

If we are at war, what kind of war are we fighting? Who is our enemy? What do we know about our enemy? What do we know about ourselves?

Facilitator: Read 1 Peter 5:8-9; Ephesians 2:12 and share war stories of times we have engaged the enemy.

Question: Jesus says (verses 9-17) we are the most loved people on earth.

Who are “we” that Jesus would love us more than others? Doesn’t he love everyone? Who does he hate? Read Romans 5:6-8 and discuss whether the “ungodly” of Romans 5:6 are our enemy, and if they are, what is our weapon against them? **Facilitator:** Satan is our enemy, and our weapon against people who oppose us is the love of God spoken in truth.

Question: How does God show his love for us, and what can you share with the group about your encounter with the love of God?

Question: Jesus also says (verses 18-25) that we are the most hated people on earth. Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 3:12 *“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life, will be persecuted.”*

Can you think of some examples of this? In your own life? Locally? Abroad? What promises of God can we hold to when persecution comes?

Facilitator: Point the group to Matthew 5:10-12— *“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Question: In 2 Corinthians 12:10, Paul says, *“For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

How can we be “content” with (or in other translations “take pleasure in”) weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities? How can we be strong when we are weak?

Question: The Holy Spirit convicts the world (unbelievers) of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

How does this empower us in battle? **Facilitator:** Be sure the group understands the battle is to win the lost for Christ—not to defend ourselves, win an argument, or defeat the person who comes against us. The convicted person is vulnerable to the “love” in John 3:16 and to the truths of Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23.